independent master of Bologna, with aid from the Marquis of Ferrara, and ruled it with the usual brutal tyranny of his family.

Bernabo Visconti was now the head of the Ghibelline party in Italy. A man of fierce passions, subject to paroxysms of bestial fury, he was a cruel and sanguinary tyrant, but a prudent and subtle politician. A mighty hunter, he enforced his game-laws by wholesale blinding, torturing, and hanging of his unhappy contadini. On one occasion, he burned alive two friars who had rebuked him for these proceedings. He ground down his people with taxation, and quartered his five thousand hunting-dogs upon the citizens and convents ; their keepers were more dreaded than the magistrates of the towns. Bernabo married Regina Beatrice della Scala, the ambitious and able daughter of the despot of Verona. " This woman," writes Corio, " ruled in great part her husband's dominion ; she was of an imperious nature, proud and daring, insatiable of wealth."[1]

The ruler of the south, the head of what would, under normal circumstances, have been the Guelf party, was that mysterious and unhappy woman, Giovanna of Anjou: " the great harlot that sitteth upon many waters and was called the Queen of Naples." [2] Readers of Dante's *Paradiso* need not be reminded that Charles Robert, son of the poet's beloved Charles Martel and Clemence of Hapsburg, had been excluded from the throne of Naples by his uncle, Charles Martel's younger brother, Robert the Wise. Charles Robert became King of Hungary in 1308, and ruled till 1342. In 1333, a reconciliation of the rival claims of the two branches of the House of Anjou had been effected by the marriage of Andrew, second son of Charles Robert of Hungary, with Giovanna, the granddaughter and heiress of Robert of Naples—both being seven years old. But there were a number of princes of the royal blood of Naples who might have expected the old King's choice to have fallen

[1] *Storia di Mil&no,* III. 6. " Regina " appears to have been one of Beatrice's real names, not merely an assumed title.

[2] Walsingham, *Htstoria Anglicana* (ed. Riley), II. p. 49.